Government of India have issued directives to the oil companies to sell only 5% ethanol-blended petrol in the State of Uttar Pradesh *w.e.f.* 1.10.2003. Accordingly only 5% ethanol blended petrol is being sold in the entire State. Licenses for ethanol production are issued by the State Governments.

Mechanism to check quality of fuel

1478. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any demand from the Federation of All India Petroleum Traders to ask the oil companies to demonstrate the quality of fuel supplied to petrol bunk owners who are generally held responsible for supplying adulterated petrol and diesel to the customers;

(b) whether Government have introduced any mechanism to check the quality of fuel supplied by the oil companies; and

(c) if so, the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) In order to facilitate Dealers to check the quality of fuel supplied by the Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs), they are provided with the equipment for testing density of the product at the time of receipt and OMCs indicate density and temperature on the invoice. OMCs have also introduced 3 tier sampling system and new tank truck locking system to ensure that the dealers receive correct quality of product supplied by the OMCs.

Growth in Petroleum Refinery Products

1479. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that petroleum refinery products registered a higher growth of 6.1 per cent during the first six months of the current fiscal year;

(b) if so, what are the estimates made for the fiscal year; and

(c) what are the expected achievements to be made by the year end?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) The production of petroleum products from refineries during the period April to September, 2003 was 54.723 million metric tonnes (MMT) as against 51,288 MMT during the corresponding period in 2002 registering a growth of 6.7%.

(b) and (c) As per revised estimates for the year 2003-04, the production of petroleum products from refineries is expected to be 111.648 million metric tonnes as against 104.209 MMT during 2002-2003, registering a growth rate of 7.1%.

Ban on private kerosene import

1480. SHRIMATI BIMBA RAIKAR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that private kerosene importers are diverting their supplies in bulk for adulteration with diesel;

(b) if so, whether Government have taken a decision to ban private import of kerosene; and

(c) whether the private importers of kerosene were bound to provide supplies for Public Distribution System and if so, upto what percentage of their import entitlement?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) and (b) In view of the reported illegal activities of the Parallel Marketeers, Government, *vide* its Notification dated 25.11.2003 issued by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, has amended the Exim Policy on import of kerosene. As per this, import of kerosene shall be allowed through State Trading Enterprises.

(c) No, Sir.

ONGC's Overseas Operation

1481. SHRI SURENDRA LATH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether ONGC is operating in other countries also;